

Two further vice-counties can now be added. In May 1980, I found a male *pallidulus* at Bishops Waltham, South Hants. Mr Colin Johnson very kindly confirmed my identification. On 6.iv.95 in company with Mr Peter Hodge, I took a single *Clambus* on Malling Down, East Sussex. On dissection, this proved to be another male *pallidulus*.

In Britain, members of the genus *Clambus* have been found mainly in decaying vegetation of various forms but very little is known of the preferences of individual species. The example of *C. pallidulus* found by Whitehead (*loc.cit.*) occurred in wood-mould in a hollow apple tree. The first specimen found by the author was extracted from debris in a rotten elm stump in a long-disused chalk pit. The second specimen was obtained from pooled sievings of moss growing on the ground among rotten logs beneath a sallow tree and of moss growing on an open chalky slope.

I thank Mr Johnson for confirming the identification of my first specimen and Mr Hodge for introducing me to the site on Malling Down.— J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

An American moth in Aberdeen

On 9th June 1994 I was brought a specimen of a large black and white moth that had been found resting close to a light on the outside wall of a warehouse at Aberdeen docks. This proved to be *Ecpantheria scribonia* (Stoll, 1790) (= *Hypercompe deflorata* auth., nec Fab. 1775) (Hodges *et al.*, 1983) which ranges across central and eastern USA, where it is known as the “great leopard moth”.

The wings of the moth were stained with the pink colour that is characteristic of meconium and so it seems likely that it had recently emerged in an enclosed space. The warehouse, where it was found, handles crates destined for offshore oil platforms and had taken delivery of a shipment originally from Dallas, Texas two or three days previously. Although Dallas is rather further west than is usually quoted for the range of this species, the contents of the crates came from various locations in USA and it is probable that a larva had climbed into a crate and pupated, prior to shipment.

The specimen has been donated to the National Museum of Scotland (NMS), Edinburgh. There it joins another apparently similar specimen labelled “USA-found dead 18.7.74. J. Tilley. Neil Dryborough and Sons Ltd. In container of American oak.” This label seems to have been attached by the late E.C. Pelham-Clinton but there is no indication of exactly where Neil Dryborough and Sons have their premises. I am indebted to Dr K.P. Bland for this information.

Now the mystery deepens, for the specimen in the NMS is labelled “*Hypercompe deflorata* (Fab.)”, which seems to deny the synonymy suggested by Hodges *et al* (1983). To complicate matters further, there is a record in Heath and Emmet (1979), (in the chapter on Arctiidae written by the late C.G.M. de Worms), of a larva, subsequently bred on 8th August

1969, imported on American oak by an Edinburgh firm of coopers. This record is quoted on the personal authority of E.C. Pelham-Clinton – is it a different specimen from that now in the NMS labelled by Pelham-Clinton “found dead on 18th July 1974”? The details of the two records suggest that they refer to separate specimens but the earlier one is apparently not held by the NMS, where Pelham-Clinton would surely have placed it, and it is puzzling that he did not pass the later record to de Worms, for a book not published until 1979.

The name used by de Worms is also “*Hypercampe deflorata* (Fab.)” but he gives the type location as “India”, which seems unlikely for the American moths. Presumably Hodges *et al* (1983) subsequently corrected the confused nomenclature and all our three (or two) imported examples should now be referred to as *Ecpantheria scribonia* (Stoll, 1790).

References: Heath, J. and Emmet, A.M. (eds.) 1979. *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*. Vol. 9. Curwen Books, London; Hodges, R.W. *et al*. (eds.) 1983. *Check List of Lepidoptera of America north of Mexico*. E.W. Classey Ltd., Oxon.

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Collecting notes 1994

The first trip of the season was a very wet family holiday to Cornwall in late May. Heavy rain prevented use of the moth trap, but on one sunny morning I managed to find larvae of the Grass Eggar (*Lasiocampa trifolii* D.&S.), Oak Eggar (*L. quercus* Linn.) and Drinker (*Philudoria potatoaria* Linn.) in some numbers on the cliff top near Gunwalloe.

On 10th June, David Keningale and I returned to the beautiful forests which lie to the east of Langres in Haute Marne. This huge area of deciduous woodland supports a rich and varied wildlife. It also supports the hotel Cheval Blanc wherein Madame lavishes care and excellent cooking upon *Monsieur Papillon et son ami!*

We hoped to find the elusive Poplar White Admiral (*Limenitis populi* Linn.) and we were not disappointed. Suitable stretches of forest drive to search could be identified by tall aspens above and Pine Marten droppings below. The reputedly shy Martens could be seen and approached by day as they marked their territorial boundaries along the lanes. *L. populi* could not resist the droppings upon which they fed during the afternoon heat. The tenacity of *populi* whilst so engaged was underlined by the number of specimens (all males) found pressed into the surface of the road by the tyres of infrequent, but very rapid, French cars. Most were either on or within a few inches of their precious Marten droppings!

Whilst awaiting the arrival of *populi* from the tree-tops a number of other butterfly species were noted. These included the abundant Black-veined White (*Aporia crataegi* L.), Black Hairstreak (*Strymonidia pruni* Linn.), Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea athalia* Rott.), False Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea*